

## REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the instant application. The claims are subject to a Restriction Requirement as noted below. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in light of these remarks.

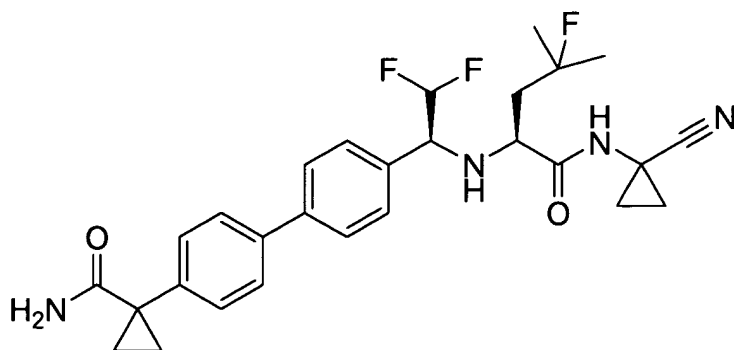
The Examiner states that the application contains the following groups of inventions that are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept:

Group I: Claims 1-9 and 11, drawn to the compounds of the formula I.

Group II: Claims 10 and 12 drawn to methods of use of compounds of Formula I.

Applicants elect, without traverse, the invention of Group I.

Applicants further elect, without traverse, the following species (compound) of the formula:




N<sup>2</sup>-((1S)-1-{4'-[1-(aminocarbonyl)cyclopropyl]biphenyl-4-yl}-2,2-difluoroethyl)-N<sup>1</sup>-(1-cyanocyclopropyl)-4-fluoro-L-leucinamide

This compound is the compound of Example 3 on page 46 of the application as filed. Claims 1-12 encompass the elected species.

Applicants respectfully contend that the Examiner's restriction under 35 U.S.C. 112 has been addressed by the above election, and that Claims 1-12 are allowable and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. If a telephonic communication with Applicants'

representative will aid in the advancement of the prosecution of this application, please telephone the representative indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



By: \_\_\_\_\_

David A. Muthard  
Registration No. 35,297  
Attorney for Applicants

Merck & Co., Inc.  
P.O. Box 2000 - RY 60-30  
Rahway, New Jersey 07065-0907  
Telephone No. (732) 594-3903

Date: September 11, 2008